basis. Government have also stated that for the successful conclusion of talks, creation of a positive environment by our interlocutors is a necessary ingredient.

Shelling by Pakistan Army

1758. SHRI KUSHOK THIKSEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of incessant 'shelling by Pakistani Army in the Kargil District and the suffering of civilan population was discussed in the Indo-Pak talks (WAGAH MEET); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Pakistani forces do engage in unprovoked firing across the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir, often targeting civilian areas and causing loss of life and damage to property. While Indian forces respond suitably, the issue of Pakistani firing on civilian areas has been taken up through established channels and also at the level of Prime Ministers. Government have demanded that this firing should cease.

Route to Kailash Manasarovar from Demchok

1759. SHRI KUSHOK THIKSEY:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister during his visit to Ladakh has promised in a public rally to approach the Chinese authorities to open the route to Kailash Manasarovar from Demchok in Leh district;

(b) if so, what has been the progress in the matter and details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are taking up the matter with the visiting Chinese delegates to India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Taking into account the growing popularity of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, the constraints relating to the existing route and requests from residents in the border areas, the Government have taken up proposals for an alternate/additional route for the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra with the Chinese Government. The route through Demochok (Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir) is one of the alternative routes proposed to the Chinese side.

The Chinese side have pointed out that travel via Demochok would involve longer distances, in an environment having inadequate infrastructure and poor logistical facilities. They have also expressed the view that development of infrastructure in these remote areas would not be an easy task and building facilities for alternative routes could take a long time.

Government of India, for its part, are willing to consider new routes taking into account the availability of infrastructure and logistical facilities and other relevant factors. Our efforts to open a new route are continuing.

परमाणु संयम के संबंध में पाकिस्तान से साथ चर्चा

1760. **प्रो० रामगोपाल यादव:**
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या पाकिस्तान सरकार ने परमाणु संयम के संबंध में भारत के साथ चर्चा का प्रस्ताव किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त प्रस्ताव का विस्तृत ब्यौरा क्या है और क्या सरकार ने प्रस्ताव पर चर्चा करने के लिए समय और स्थान निर्धारित करने की दिशा में कोई कदम उठाया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है, यदि नहीं, तो पाकिस्तान के उक्त प्रस्ताव पर सरकार ने क्या दृष्टिकोण अपनाया है?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री जसवन्त सिंह): (क) से (ग) संयुक्त वार्ता प्रक्रिया के भाग के रूप में भारत और पाकिस्तान विश्वासोत्पादक उपायों सहित शान्ति तथा सुरक्षा पर बातचीत कर रहे हैं। अक्तूबर, 1998 में इस विषय पर पहले दौर की बातचीत के दौरान विभिन्न प्रस्तावों का